



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 8 October 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced the extradition of a former Colombian naval petty officer on charges stemming from a conspiracy to sell navigation charts purporting to detail the locations of Colombian and U.S. Naval and Coast Guard vessels to narcotics importers. (See item [6](#))
- According to SC Magazine, a study published by Cornell University claims that most U.S. hotels are “ill prepared” to protect their guests from Internet security problems. (See item [34](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 7, Bloomberg* – (International) **Mexico braces for wind, rain as Marco moves closer.** Mexico shut offshore oil wells as it braced for Tropical Storm Marco, with the system forecast to bring heavy rains and strong winds before possible landfall in the state of Veracruz Tuesday. Marco was packing maximum sustained winds of almost 65 miles an hour and may approach hurricane strength before it reaches the coast, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said in an advisory on its website just before 8 a.m. Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), the third-largest supplier of crude to the U.S., closed six wells in the Gulf of Mexico and removed 33 workers from offshore platforms. Output from the producer’s Lankahuasa platform was shut at 3 p.m. Monday, Pemex said in a statement

on its website.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a4mmNx11gOC4&refer=latin_america

2. *October 6, Reuters* – (Michigan) **Michigan governor signs energy package.** The governor of Michigan on Monday signed into law legislation that calls for 10 percent of electricity in the state to be generated from renewable sources by 2015. Also signed into law is a Michigan provision requiring energy efficiency to cut power demand by 5.5 percent by 2015. A third provision signed by the governor limits switching by industrial customers from Michigan utilities. This amendment to existing law is seen as helping Consumers Energy build a new coal power plant and for Detroit Edison to build a new nuclear plant by assuring them of an adequate customer base to support the major capital projects.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0638714520081006?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

3. *October 7, Platts* – (National) **U.S. NRC rejects request to overhaul license renewal process.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Monday rejected a petition seeking an overhaul of the agency's license renewal process and a suspension of hearings on four applications to provide 20-year extensions for several operating licenses at nuclear power plants. The applications are from Oyster Creek in New Jersey, Indian Point-2 and Indian Point-3 in New York, Pilgrim in Massachusetts, and Vermont Yankee in Vermont. In the vote, the commissioners also denied the request for the agency to revise the NRC staff's safety evaluation reports on three of the four license renewal proceedings. The petition request was filed by numerous groups, which said their request was based on deficiencies with the NRC's license review process that were identified by the NRC Office of the Inspector General in a September 2007 report. One of the findings was that the NRC staff appeared to be copying and pasting statements from plant operators without demonstrating it had independently verified those statements.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/8077001.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

4. *October 6, World Nuclear News* – (International) **Event scale revised for further**

clarity. The International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) has been revised to improve the clarity of reporting when things go wrong at nuclear facilities, clarifying the safety significance of nuclear and radiological events. The revised scale was welcomed at the International Atomic Energy Agency's General Conference last week, after input from the 25 of the 63 member countries. The scale remains essentially as before although a revised user manual anticipated to be published in early 2009 will include certain changes, following the adoption of the revised scale in July 2008. Areas that have been developed include details of doses to individuals, the transportation of fissile material, events involving damage to nuclear fuel, as well as consistency of terminology.

Source: http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_Event_scale_revised_for_further_clarity_0510081.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *October 6, MSNBC* – (National) **Power cell wins \$1 million Pentagon prize.** The Pentagon has given a U.S.-German venture the \$1 million top prize in a competition for portable power systems. The winning product, created by Delaware-based DuPont and Germany's SFC Smart Fuel Cell, is already being sold to the U.S. Army for limited use in the field. Almost 170 teams competed for the Wearable Power Prize, a Pentagon-sponsored contest to invent a better power system.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27055776/>
6. *October 6, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement* – (International) **Former Colombian naval petty officer extradited to United States for selling naval positioning charts to cocaine traffickers.** Federal and local officials announced the extradition of a former Colombian naval petty officer on charges stemming from a conspiracy to sell navigation charts purporting to detail the locations of Colombian and United States Naval and Coast Guard vessels to narcotics importers seeking to avoid interdiction by law enforcement on the high seas. These trafficking organizations generally transported cocaine from Colombia to trans-shipment points in the Caribbean Sea and Central America.
Source: <http://www.ice.gov/pi/nr/0810/081006newyorkcity.htm>
7. *October 6, Defense News* – (National) **Army weighing vehicle upgrades.** U.S. Army leaders are working to decide when to stop upgrading Bradley and Stryker fighting vehicles and Abrams tanks, and put the money toward Future Combat Systems (FCS) vehicles, according to the Army chief of staff. "As we look to the future, it would be irresponsible of us not to look at a modernization strategy that gave our soldiers an asymmetric advantage over any enemy that they face," he told reporters at the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army in Washington D.C. "One of the toughest decisions that the secretary [of the Army] and myself will have to make is: when do you stop upgrading legacy systems? When do we move away from those old systems and go to a fundamentally different technology? Those are the discussions that we are having." The Army's five-year plan calls for adding up to \$6.2 billion to FCS.
Source:

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *October 7, Bloomberg News* – (National) **Fed to purchase U.S. commercial paper to ease crunch.** The Federal Reserve will create a special fund to purchase U.S. commercial paper after the credit crunch threatened to cut off a key source of funding for corporations. The Fed Board invoked emergency powers to set up the unit, the central bank said in a statement released in Washington. The Fed did not say how much commercial paper, which hundreds of companies use to finance payrolls and meet other cash needs, it plans to purchase. Treasuries declined and two-year notes fell for the first time in five days, pushing yields up from the lowest level since March, after the central bank invoked emergency powers to support the financing needs of corporations.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aAyx4qPsKSZk&refer=worldwide>
9. *October 6, Zycko News* – (International) **Banks ‘prioritizing data security and compliance.’** Spending on security-related technology is set to increase, if risk management and security compliance continue to be top priorities within banks, after over half of banks claim that their security budget will rise over the next two years, research has found. The 2008 Independent Community Bankers of America’s (ICBA) Community Bank Technology Survey reveals that 54 percent say they will spend more on data compliance. While 89 percent of banks say they have an IT business continuity plan for data security, this drops to 80 percent for those with a similar strategy for data security breaches, the research uncovers.
Source: http://www.zycko.com/news/18813419-Banks_prioritising_data_security_and_compliance
10. *October 6, E Week* – (National) **How Wall Street can mitigate financial fraud using biometric authentication.** Risk control procedures are not enough to mitigate fraud on Wall Street. Biometric authentication is a reliable solution for preventing security breaches. SAP (business software) users can mitigate fraud by using bioLock (from realtime North America), the certified biometric solution using fingerprints. Even if log-in passwords were obtained, the fraudster would not be able to do anything with the passwords because the biometric authentication system would deny him access to perform transactions. The biometric approach is crucial for maintaining segregation of duties when employees gain new responsibilities. Biometrics will prevent data breaches of security. Fraudsters will not limit their fraudulent activities trying to perpetrate frauds using only an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning software) system. Users of ERP systems must also secure e-mail systems and any trading systems interfacing with an ERP system. This would tighten security and improve accountability.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/IT-Management/How-Wall-Street-can-Mitigate-Financial-Fraud-using-Biometric-Authentication/>

Transportation Sector

11. *October 7, USA Today* – (National) **Airport bomb scans tested in busy terminals.**

Every traveler in the post-9/11 era gets watched at airport checkpoints. But sometime soon, a traveler may be checked for a bomb at the airport entrance. Fearing that terrorists with suicide vests may blow up crowded sections of airports, the Transportation Security Administration for the first time is looking at ways to scan people as they walk through terminals. Machines recently tested at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Denver International Airport could pave the way for more airports to get the technology. It works this way: A scanner is mounted on a tripod at a busy part of an airport terminal, pointing at people 30 feet away. The \$210,000 machine, which looks like a spotlight, reads the energy emitted from a human body. It looks for “cold” spots where dense objects – such as bombs – block energy. When the scanner sounds an alarm, a screener can call police to handle anyone who seems dangerous.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-10-06-terminal-scans_N.htm

12. *October 7, Aviation.com* – (National) **Registered traveler programs no longer about security.** Created to thwart would-be terrorists, post-9/11 registered traveler programs have quietly morphed into airport and travel-industry concierge services that have much more to do with convenience than security. Registered traveler programs – also initially known as trusted traveler programs – originated as a means of pre-screening air travelers following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The idea was to help differentiate would-be terrorists from trustworthy road warriors who present no risk to aviation. After testing the systems, though, the Feds decided the pre-screening they were conducting on applicants duplicated the terrorist watch-lists. In July, the Transportation Security Administration stopped screenings applicants – the programs themselves still do that.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/aviation/20081007/tr_aviation/registeredtravelerprogramsnonlongeraboutsecurity;_ylt=Au0_KcoGGX8WFZW0xd.Vj.s0NUE

13. *October 7, Houston Chronicle* – (National) **How did Mexican bus get its tags?** A federal investigation into the crash of a Houston-based charter bus has revealed what is believed to be a scheme to move Mexican-made motor coaches illegally into the U.S. through Texas using a Dallas-based firm, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) told the Houston Chronicle. Details of the practice used by at least one Houston bus company and how the method points to holes in the way buses are inspected and registered are expected to be the central focus of an NTSB hearing that begins in Washington, D.C., Tuesday into the January 2 crash near Victoria. And while there were no apparent mechanical problems with the Mexican-made bus involved in the crash, federal safety officials are concerned because they have uncovered nearly two dozen buses imported and registered in violation of federal regulations.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6043779.html>

14. *October 7, Times of Trenton* – (Pennsylvania) **Damaged bridge joint repaired quickly in Pa.** A broken joint that briefly caused delays on the Trenton-Morrisville Toll Bridge was repaired last weekend, the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission said. The damage was discovered Friday afternoon on the Route 1 south overpass that crosses South Pennsylvania Avenue in Morrisville. Traffic was confined to a single lane to allow repair crews to work.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/times/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-14/1223352309175050.xml&coll=5>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *October 6, Western Star* – (Ohio) **Boehner's bomb scare package full of pork.** A suspicious package found at a House Minority Leader's office was just filled with pork. Someone reported the package at the district office around 3:30 p.m. Monday, October 6, according to emergency dispatchers. Postmarked from Georgia, it apparently had a large stain on it, according to WKRC 12. Police evacuated four employees from the office and two office condos on either side. The Butler County Hazardous Material team was called in to examine the package and discovered it contained bacon. A spokesman said the House Minority Leader was not in the office at the time of the incident.

Source: <http://www.western-star.com/n/content/oh/story/news/local/2008/10/06/hjn100708bombsquad.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *October 7, Medical News Today* – (International) **Outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 in the United States and related cases in Ontario.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is informing the public of its investigation into a possible food link between an E. coli O157:H7 outbreak in the U.S., two possible cases in Southern Ontario and chopped shredded iceberg lettuce from an exporter in Michigan. Several illnesses with the same rare pattern of E. coli O157:H7 have been reported in Michigan and Illinois, and the common link is believed to be bagged iceberg lettuce distributed by Detroit-based Aunt Mid's Produce Co. The distributor has voluntarily suspended distribution of all iceberg lettuce products.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/124476.php>

17. *October 7, Associate Press* – (Louisiana) **Parts of Louisiana declared agricultural disaster areas.** Dozens of Louisiana parishes have been designated as agricultural disaster areas by the federal government in the aftermath of hurricanes Gustav and Ike. That announcement Monday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture makes many Louisiana farmers eligible for low-interest emergency loans. The department approved disaster declarations for 52 of the 64 parishes requested by the governor of New Orleans. In a letter to the governor, a department secretary said 12 parishes did not have

production losses in amounts that would qualify them as disaster areas.

Source: <http://www.neworleanscitybusiness.com/UpToTheMinute.cfm?recID=20666>

18. *October 6, Food Consumer* – (National) **FDA: Melamine found in flavored drink.**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it has detected melamine, the industrial chemical has contaminated the whole dairy industry in China, in Blue Cat Flavor Drink, made by a Chinese company. The distributor of the products, Tristar Food Wholesale Co. Inc. initiated a recall of several flavors of Blue Cat Flavor Drink, the FDA said in its statement. Also, the Taiwanese company, King Car Food Industrial Co. Ltd and Sunny Maid Corporation of Monterey Park, California, which imports the tainted products into the U.S., are recalling seven Mr. Brown instant coffee and milk tea products due to possible contamination with melamine. So far, the FDA said there have no reports of illness associated with ingestion of the tainted products being recalled.

Source:

http://foodconsumer.org/7777/8888/R_ecalls_amp_A_lerts_3/100611492008_FDA_Melamine_found_in_flavored_drink.shtml

19. *October 6, Newswise Science News* – (National) **Nitrogen Applied.** Recent study results have shown that using nitrogen fertilizer on off-season cover crops can not only increase the biomass of these crops, but can also have a beneficial effect on the nitrogen levels in the soil for the cash crop planted during the summer season. The results could significantly aid in preventing soil erosion in vulnerable agricultural regions. Combating soil erosion is a primary concern for agricultural producers in the U.S., and many have incorporated conservation tillage systems in their effort to maintain a profitable crop output. Researchers found that areas that did have fertilizer applied to their cover crops had less biomass output for soil protection, while plots that did use fertilizer had greater biomass along with an increased amount of nitrogen available for the cash crop. Results from the study were published in the September-October 2008 issue of the Soil Science Society of America Journal.

Source: [http://www.innovations-](http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/agricultural_sciences/nitrogen_applied_119565.html)

[report.com/html/reports/agricultural_sciences/nitrogen_applied_119565.html](http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/agricultural_sciences/nitrogen_applied_119565.html)

20. *October 6, Colorado State University* – (Colorado) **Colorado State scientist works to control Listeria outbreak.** Colorado State University researchers are conducting research and education activities for the prevention of listeriosis outbreaks such as the one spreading through Canada. In the last several weeks, foods contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* have resulted in more than 60 illnesses and at least 17 deaths in Canada. More than 190 brands of meats and cheeses have been recalled. Twenty percent to 30 percent of those who are diagnosed with listeriosis die, with the elderly and fetuses of pregnant women being the most at risk. Researchers from Universities across the country have developed various research, education and outreach components that are designed to reduce the risk of listeria transmission by intervening at the processing, food service and consumer level. The project is funded by the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Source:

http://newsinfo.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=news_item_display&news_item_id=509713308

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Water Sector

21. *October 6, Discovery.com* – (National) **A cleaner way to get drinking water from seas?** According to a geoscientist at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, hundreds of mothballed military and private ships could be well adapted as mobile desalination plants. Such ships could serve coastal communities, where water is badly needed. The ships could cruise away to avoid a hurricane, if need be, returning afterward to supply a city lacking water and power. The geoscientist, who will make the case for portable desalination plants onboard old ships at a meeting of the Geological Society of America, said that mobile desalination facilities avoid many of the environmental problems that hinder their development on land. Renewable energy solutions could power the oceangoing desalination plants. Water Standard, a Houston-based company, is poised to make the idea a reality. They purchased a ship this year and are moving forward with plans to turn it into a desalination plant that should be up and running by late 2009. The price of water made this way will be competitive with that made by land-based desalination, said a Water Standard communications director.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27055526/>

22. *October 6, Bay City Times* – (Michigan) **Tests show excess lead in Bay area drinking water.** The staff of Bay City's Water Treatment Plant recently collected samples from 69 residential sites throughout the city's connected water distribution system. The tests found 14 of the samples — 20 percent — exceeded recommended levels of lead allowed under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule. A water plant superintendent says lead plumbing in homes, including faucets, are the main culprit, not the city's treated drinking water. The EPA requires utilities to collect samples each year from selected "high risk" sites. If more than 10 percent of the samples exceed 15 parts per billion (ppb) of lead, or 1,300 ppb of copper, the "action level" has been exceeded. Exceeding the action level is "not a violation" but does require the city to conduct public education, increase the sampling frequency and quantity, resume a program to remove the utility's portion of any remaining lead service lines going to homes, and "further optimize" the city's water treatment processes. On April 7, the City Commission approved a contract with environmental consulting firm Malcolm Pirnie of White Plains, N.Y., to conduct a Corrosion Control study to determine further modifications to city water treatment processes to reduce the dissolution of lead at the customers' taps. City officials anticipate receiving recommendations from the study in the next several months.

Source: http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/10/tests_show_excess_lead_in_bay.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *October 7, Xinhua News Agency* – (International) **Bird flu hits one more Vietnamese province.** Bird flu has stricken Vietnam's central Nghe An province, killing about 300 ducks, said an official with the Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Tuesday. The ducks raised by a household in the province started to die recently. The specimens collected from the dead ducks have tested positive to bird flu virus strain H5N1, said the unnamed official. A Local health department has slaughtered all the fowls in the affected spot and disinfected this area to guard against any further outbreaks of bird flu.
Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-10/07/content_10158725.htm
24. *October 7, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Stomach virus outbreak at USC may have peaked.** The number of University of Southern California students sickened by a contagious gastrointestinal virus has risen to about 275, but officials said today that the outbreak may have peaked. Students with symptoms have been treated at on- and off-campus medical clinics for the last few days. The university has been cleaning dorms and dining halls to limit further spread of the virus, but classes and other campus functions have been kept on a normal schedule. Students who suffered serious dehydration were given intravenous fluids and about 10 were briefly hospitalized, often because other medical conditions put them at risk.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-uscflu7-2008oct07.0,1784650.story>
25. *October 6, HealthDay* – (National) **Pediatricians would admit error only half the time.** Only about half of U.S. pediatricians surveyed in a new study said they would disclose a medical error to the family of a child under their care, according to a new study published in the October issue of the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine. Many said they were much more likely to admit the error when it was an obvious one. The survey of about 200 pediatricians working in St. Louis or Seattle revealed marked differences in how physicians said they would disclose an error to children and their families.
Source: <http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2008/10/06/pediatricians-would-admit-error-only-half-the-time.html>
26. *October 5, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Concerns hang over new L.A. County-USC hospital.** The opening of the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center has been delayed repeatedly, most recently last week. Officials announced that the move to the new facility would be postponed from October 17 to November 7, citing challenging schedules for the hospital and state inspectors, as well as last-minute work not yet completed by sub-contractors. Two main questions loom over the \$1.02-billion medical center's opening: are there too few beds, and will there be enough doctors to fully staff the expanded emergency room when it opens? There are 824 licensed acute-care beds at the current County-USC hospital (most recently the facility has been filling about 590 of them), but there are only 600 such beds in the new building next door. Those 600 will not offer much breathing space for the hospital if, say, a bad flu season overwhelms

emergency rooms throughout Southern California. For example, last Thursday, 588 licensed beds were in use at the current center; if the old hospital had moved into the new facility last week, it would have been about 98% full. A shortage of beds would cause a backup of emergency room patients waiting for admission, causing wait times to lengthen, according to a report submitted to the county Board of Supervisors in July.

The report warned that the “hospital opens at the tipping point,” and said that the newness of the facility might attract a 5 percent to 15 percent increase in patient arrivals.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-me-countyusc5-2008oct05,0,2153720.story>

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *October 6, Moscow Times* – (International) **Pro-Kremlin youth slam Washington.**

About 80 young people gathered outside the U.S. Embassy on Sunday, chanting anti-American slogans and demanding that a former U.S. diplomat be tried over a car crash that paralyzed a Vladivostok student 10 years ago. The rally appeared to be a manifestation of anti-U.S. sentiment that has escalated after Georgia, backed by the United States, tried to retake South Ossetia by force in August. Sunday’s protesters — students recruited by United Russia’s youth group, Young Russia — placed the accident victim in the back of a truck while chanting “Bush will have to answer for everything” and “American pigs should go.” In 1998, the victim was hit by a car driven by the U.S. Consul General in Vladivostok. In 2002 and 2006, the victim unsuccessfully filed civil suits to U.S. courts seeking \$9 million in compensation.

Source: <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/article/1010/42/371444.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *October 7, WRC 4 District of Columbia* – (Maryland) **Medevac chopper guidelines to be reviewed.** A national panel of experts will review operations for Maryland’s medevac helicopters in the wake of a helicopter crash that killed four people and seriously injured a fifth. The crash has increased pressure to privatize the service or find money to replace the aging helicopter fleet, some lawmakers said. The state will try having a consultation between paramedics at the scene and the trauma center before a helicopter is sent. That consultation will not involve the medevac team. Obviously critical situations, like pregnant victims, still will get medevac helicopters.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27055039>

29. *October 7, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **S.F. health chief looks to private ambulances.** San Francisco’s public health director has decided to invite additional private ambulance firms to help the Fire Department cover 911 emergency medical calls on the city’s streets. The decision to establish a “nonexclusive zone” for emergency ambulance services follows a recent state ruling that advised the city to put those services to competitive bid. But the health czar has balked at preparing a bid package

for 911 medical services, a move that experts warned could create logistical problems and lower the quality of services, with private firms vying to serve neighborhoods where there are fewer homeless and uninsured patients. "This is the worst of all the solutions they could pick," said a professor of health and community services at Chico State University who is an expert on California ambulance law. "You will have a system that will cost more, that will be less accountable and provide a lower level of service."

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/10/07/BAOG13CBQ6.DTL>

30. *October 6, WKYX 94.3 Paducah* – (Illinois) **Emergency drill to test state, local response to major earthquake in southern Illinois.** More than 200 state and local emergency response personnel tested their response capabilities during a large-scale earthquake drill beginning Tuesday in southern Illinois. The three-day exercise will enhance the state's earthquake preparedness by allowing participating organizations to test key components of their response plans. The I-Qquake exercise will conclude on Thursday. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Springfield will be activated and staffed with liaisons from more than a dozen state agencies. Field activities will take place in Marion and other locations in southern Illinois. State agencies participating in field operations include Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Public Health. Local participants include the Marion Fire Department, Williamson County Emergency Management Agency and Technical Rescue Teams from the southern divisions of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, the fire services mutual aid organization. Illinois Taskforce 1, a statewide urban search and rescue asset, also will participate in the earthquake exercise.

Source: <http://www.wkyx.com/local-news-details.asp?NewsID=8013>

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Information Technology

31. *October 7, VNU Net* – (National) **Symantec warns of alarming spam trends.** Symantec's monthly State of Spam report claims that malware-laden messages are far more common than in the first half of the year. The security firm estimates that 1.2 percent of all email messages sent contain a malicious payload. Overall, Symantec found that spam comprises some 78 percent of the global email volumes. While attached .zip and .rar archives were the most popular method for spreading malware, researchers also found that embedding attack code within the source code of the message itself is becoming popular. "The increase began in May 2008 and continues to the present," the company said in the report. "During this period, there has also been an increase in email messages carrying malware payloads, not just links to malicious code." The majority of the malicious payloads were generic Trojan, downloader and information stealing applications.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2227603/spam-getting-nasty-symantec>

32. *October 6, The Register* – (International) **Boffins (finally) publish hack for world's most popular smartcard.** Two research papers published Monday have finally made it

official: the world's most widely deployed radio frequency identification (RFID) smartcard - used to control access to transportation systems, military installations, and other restricted areas - can be cracked in a matter of minutes using inexpensive tools. One paper - published by researchers from Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands - describes in detail how to clone cards that use the Mifare Classic. The chip is used widely throughout the world, including in London's Oyster Card, Boston's Charlie Card, and briefly by a new Dutch transit card. Manufacturer NXP and the Dutch government had tried in vain to prevent the researchers from disclosing their findings, arguing that the findings would enable abuse of security systems that rely on the card. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/10/06/mifare_hack_finally_published/

33. *October 6, Dark Reading* – (International) **Free tool hacks banking, webmail, and social networking sessions.** A researcher will demonstrate a free, plug-and-play hacking tool this week that automatically generates man-in-the middle attacks on online banking, Gmail, Facebook, LiveJournal, and LinkedIn sessions – even though they secure the login process. The researcher, who recently released the so-called “Middler” open-source tool, will show it off at the SecTor conference in Toronto. Aside from the unnerving capability of hacking into sites that perform secure logins and then use clear-text HTTP, Middler is also designed for use by an attacker with no Web-hacking skills or experience. “The Middler allows an attacker with no Web application-hacking experience to launch attacks that previously required substantial time and skill,” according to the Middler Web page. The Middler basically clones the victim's online session by using the same cookies and HTML form parameters as the victim. Then the attacker can inject malicious JavaScript onto the Web pages, redirect the user to another page, or log the victim's session. Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=165303&WT.svl=news1_1

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *October 6, SC Magazine* – (National) **Study: Hotel network security lacking.** Most U.S. hotels are vulnerable to malicious attacks and are “ill prepared” to protect their guests from Internet security problems, claims a study published by Cornell University.

The study, “Hotel Network Security: A Study of Computer Networks in U.S. Hotels,” examined the security of 147 hotels through surveys, interviews, and on-site testing. Of the hotels compromised, each took about 10 minutes to breach. Some hotel employees inadvertently assisted in the breach by providing passwords and access instructions. The study recommended that all hotels use Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) encryption, which requires a password to get on the network and encrypts all data transmitted.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Study-Hotel-network-security-lacking/article/118819/>

35. *October 6, NBC News* – (National) **FBI warns of potential terror attacks on public buildings.** The FBI and Department of Homeland Security today issued an analytical “note” to U.S. law-enforcement officials cautioning that al-Qaida terrorists have in the past expressed interest in attacking public buildings using a dozen suicide bombers each carrying 20 kilograms of explosives. According to the note, a “recently discovered audio recording of al-Qa’ida training sessions conducted several years ago provides instruction to potential suicide terrorists on seizing a publicly accessible building and damaging or destroying it with explosive charges.” In the unclassified report, the analysts added that, if the attack is carried out as instructed on the tape, it would have more explosive power than the truck bomb used in the 1983 Beirut Embassy attack. Source: <http://deepbackground.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/10/06/1501940.aspx>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *October 7, Lake County News* – (California) **Forest Service expands law enforcement presence on National Forest.** Federal officials are stepping up their efforts to address illegal marijuana growing in the Mendocino National Forest, with additional help from personnel from other areas and a local law enforcement staff that has been quadrupled in size. That increase is based on the significant presence in the forest of criminal activity, especially that which is linked with illegal drugs. In recent years, the Mendocino National Forest has had more seizures of illegal marijuana than any other National Forest in California. Likewise, Lake County as a whole has led all of the state’s 58 counties for the amount of marijuana eradicated. Source: <http://lakeconews.com/content/view/5859/764/>
37. *October 6, Associated Press* – (National) **Tougher measures sought for plaque metal thefts.** A descendent of famed frontiersman Daniel Boone is calling for tougher sentences for people caught plundering the bronze, brass, copper, and aluminum plaques displayed across the country to commemorate places of historical significance and selling them for scrap metal. The issue arose after a man was sentenced in August to only four months in jail for stealing a \$10,000 plaque marking the original Missouri burial site for Boone. Cut into pieces, the Boone marker sold as scrap for less than \$100. In the western Kentucky town of Henderson, investigators are trying to find who took a cast aluminum marker that stood in front of the one-time home of an early 20th century governor of Kentucky. The newly refurbished marker disappeared about two months ago, said a superintendent in the state transportation office in Madisonville. In

California, thieves stole a 160-pound bronze plaque last year from the base of San Francisco's Mount Davidson Cross. The plaque honored victims of Armenian genocide from 1915 to 1918. Police notified recycling plants in the San Francisco area to be on the look out for the marker. So far, it has not been found. The Council of Armenian American Organizations of Northern California paid \$11,000 for a new marker.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/10/06/ap5513335.html>

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Dams Sector

38. *October 6, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Savage Rapids Dam undergoes final drawdown.** On Monday crews from the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID) began the final draw down of the 86-year-old dam before the \$28 million removal project, which is scheduled for next spring. With the 2008 irrigation season over, fish ladders are being de-watered and stop-logs atop the dam are being removed. The dam is being removed to improve the passage of Rogue River salmon and steelhead. A 12-pump irrigation facility below the dam will be tested in November. If all goes well, the pumps will deliver about 140 cubic feet per second of water into 160 miles of canals, serving more than 8,000 customers. A GPID Manager says the pumps will replace the dam with its old turbine-powered pumps and gravity-flow ditches. A 36-inch water line will also extend across the river on a new steel bridge to carry water to ditches above Interstate 5.
Source: <http://kdrv.com/news/local/52174>
39. *October 6, Lansing State Journal* – (Michigan) **BWL to test dam warning system Tuesday.** The Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL) will conduct an annual test of its dam break warning system Tuesday. Two sirens will sound at approximately 10 a.m. Following the sirens, a recorded message in both English and Spanish will be broadcast via loudspeakers. The message will say: "Testing the dam break flood warning system." The sirens are located along the Grand River. Federal law requires the BWL to annually test the emergency warning system, in the event that the Moores Park Dam failed. Moores Park Dam is located on the Grand River near the BWL's Eckert Power Plant.
Source:
<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081006/NEWS01/810060378>

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